Mation

lights over 11eV

The GCC AGA

The New Chairperson

Teaching Trapping



? Chisasibi

- Customer Service (STC)-Fall 2018
- Hotel Reception-Fall 2018
- Pharmacy Technical Assistance-Fall 2018
- Secretarial Studies- Fall 2018

Wemindji

- Carpentry-September 2018
- Construction Business Management - Fall 2018
- Secretarial Studies Fall 2018

Mistissini

• Plastering-September 2018

Nemaska

• Computer Graphics-September 2018

Waskaganish

- Computing Support-September 2018
- Recreational Vehicle Mechanics-Fall 2018

Waswanipi (SRVTC)

- Pastry Making-September 2018
- Construction Business Management-Fall 2018
- Industrial Construction and Maintenance Mechanics-Fall 2018
- Surveying and Topography-Fall 2018
- Jewellery Making-Winter 2019
- Recreation Leadership in Nunavik-Winter 2019
- Northern Heavy Equipment Operations - Spring 2019





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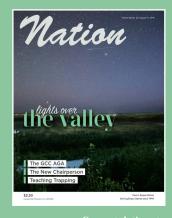








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Congratulations to Brendan Forward for winning the Nation's cover photo contest



Forgiveness and celebration

by Curtis Bosum, Chief of Ouje-Bougoumou



recently had the privilege of joining with our Elders who remember the time in our history when we lived across from Mistissini at a location that has come to be known as "Ouje Point". I had the double pleasure of being able to paddle a canoe between "Ouje Point" and Mistissini and talk with an Elder about their recollections of those days.

Those were difficult times for our people. When the Hudson Bay Company closed its office in Chibougamau, some of our people came to Mistisissini and stayed at the Ouje-Bougoumou Point so that we could receive rations and also credits for the furs that our people harvested.

At one point our people were told by agents of the Department of Indian Affairs that if we wanted to continue receiving any benefits we would need to relocate to Mistissini. And some of our people did that. Although the people of Mistissini welcomed us, at the same time there were uncertainties. There was some confusion about the role and the purpose of our people being in Mistissini and this, in turn, created some misunderstandings and frustrations.

This situation was further complicated when, instead of recognizing Ouje-Bougoumou as a distinct Cree community, the Indian Affairs agents placed the names of the Ouje-Bougoumou people on the Mistissini band list when the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was being negotiated.

Our previous Ouje-Bougoumou leaders worked very hard for decades



to correct the injustices done to our people. We spent many years struggling to have our right to a permanent community recognized by Quebec and

What struck me very deeply in my conversations with our Elders was how, in spite of the difficulties that our people encountered in that time, the important thing now for the people who lived through those times was not anger, not hard feelings, nor a desire for revenge. Our Elders have taught me the importance of moving on and not continuing to carry negativity with us.

Instead of those possible negative reactions, they taught me, and they have taught all of us, about forgiveness and about love. They have taught

us about the power of reconciliation and how forgiveness and reconciliation make it possible for our communities to work together to achieve common goals, such as protecting and preserving our Cree culture and language.

Instead of negativity and hurt, our people have moved to forgiveness and celebration. By abandoning negativity, they have created for us the possibility of positive collaboration that can take us to new areas of success that will be to the lasting benefit of all our people.

I am grateful to our Elders – both in Ouje-Bougoumou and in Mistissini – for showing us the power of forgiveness and the courage to leave negativity in the past. And in so doing, for helping open a world of opportunities for us all.

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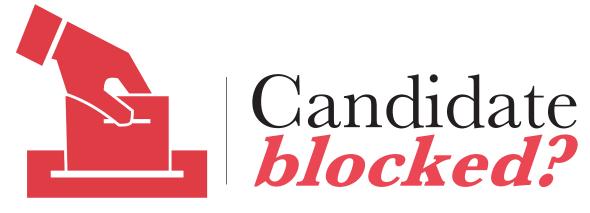












Former chief petitions for new election in Waswanipi

by Dan Isaac

former three-term chief of Waswanipi has been nominated to run again as chief of the community. Whether or not he'll be able to run, however, is still up in the

John Kitchen was Chief of Waswanipi for 10 years, and served on the band council for a decade. After his political career he became a businessman in and out of the community. "The community has issues," Kitchen told the Nation when asked why he was running again. "Especially housing. That needs to be addressed."

On July 3, Kitchen officially entered the race after being nominated by Jonathan Ottereyes, Jason Neeposh, Mary Ann Jolly, Priscilla Ottereyes and Ronnie Trapper. At the time, the nomination was accepted by Returning Officer Juanita Cooper Bosum.

"I asked twice if the nomination had been accepted," said Kitchen. But shortly after there were issues with his nomination papers.

Initially, a complaint was filed with the Returning Officer in regards to an alleged conflict of interest for Kitchen. Earlier in the year, Kitchen had bid on and won the contract to build five homes in the community. The complaint was accepted and Kitchen himself met with the Returning Officer.

During that meeting the band's legal counsel stated that Kitchen should be allowed to run but if elected must resign from his companies.

"On August 3 a meeting took place between the Returning Officer, the Chief and Corporate Secretary," read a document sent to the Nation. Kitchen's nomination was rejected at I pm that day, two days after the August I dead-

Apparently there were several other issues arising with Kitchen's nomination papers. According to the document, Kitchen was informed that one of his signatories had signed three other nomination papers. Before that, on August 2, Kitchen was informed they'd lost his papers. He was also

ings took place to vote on whether a new election should take place and to replace the Returning Officer. The meeting attracted 102 community members, however, 178 community members are needed for quorum.

At press time, there are two more special general assemblies scheduled before the election. One takes place on August 27, and if needed, a final special assembly will be held on September 3.

The election, originally scheduled for August 30, has now been moved to September 7, with advanced polls opening on August 27. But if the

"They're not giving me a chance and I feel like I've been treated unfairly"

told on August 3 that one of his nominators hadn't printed their name on the papers, and finally that a seconder hadn't signed.

In the wake of the August 3 decision to reject his nomination, Kitchen launched a petition to have his name included in the list of candidates. It garnered 177 signatures and triggered the announcement of a special general assembly on August 15. On August 20, the first of three potential meet-

Kitchen is successful in his petition, the election campaign will start anew, and a new date for those elections will be

"They're not giving me a chance and I feel like I've been treated unfairly." said Kitchen. "If I was elected I'd make sure to look at our election by-laws. There are a whole bunch of holes in the process that need to be

Preserving the art of trapping

Cree Trappers Association to launch **trapping course** for Cree youth

> by Felix von Geyer Photo by Ndiamon

rom animal sounds and bird calls to constructing a permanent allyear campsite, Cree youth may soon have better opportunities to learn the slowly dwindling art of their trapping culture.

"Twenty-five per cent of Cree are under 20 years old," Fred Tomatuk, President of Cree Trappers Association (CTA), told the Nation, adding that many are dislocated from traditional Cree culture. "The youth population don't have a parent who is raised in the bush and a whole load of people don't have a trapline," he said.

To reverse the trend, Tomatuk has devised a 900-hour, one-year vocational certificate recognized by the Quebec Education Ministry that is now awaiting final approval from the General Assembly of the CTA. Cégep de Saint-Félicien in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area has also helped devise the syllabus proposal and will be accrediting the course to National Vocational Qualification, 80% of which will be field-based, with only 180 hours in the classroom.

Tomatuk expects to start a twoweek trial and test run in February 2019 with 10 to 15 students who would concentrate on trapping fur-bearing animals such as moose, rabbit, fox, marten and possibly caribou.

"They will learn how to skin and how to prepare the fur... skinning the proper way. Younger hunters don't prepare the skin very well so don't receive the best value for it," Tomatuk was keen to point out.

Indeed, the trapping cycle proposed by the new course would closely follow the seasons. "Spring is the goose hunt. In March we start the preparation with a cooking teepee, so you'd learn which wood you use for smoking, how to make the decoys, blinds, have the hunt and which wood to use for cooking so you can eat it. There's no one method of cooking," explained Tomatuk.

While March to June is oriented around hunting water fowl, the summer season is about fishing and autumn is about the berry season.

One aspect of the course that particularly excites Tomatuk is building the permanent camp site.

"You'll be learning how to build a traditional permanent campsite," said Tomatuk. "This will take 10 days to two weeks and by this I mean using natural resources - we won't be using nails and it will accommodate four families a strong part of the course. Survival and last about 40 years.

"You'll have to learn about location. How do you determine the best spot? Do you have a supply of wood? Is there a windbreak from the north? Do you have sand and moss? The toilet will be a teepee outside of the camp but you have to look at whether it can be degraded and not go into the creek," he added.

Building temporary camp sites will also be included but the permanent camp would be for year-round use.

Tomatuk expects the course to reconnect Cree youth with their culture, especially Cree language and its different wildlife descriptions. Cree culture will take 75 hours of the total course but will not cover the spiritual aspects of Cree culture, such as the

"I was miserably cold and wet, but I was smiling inside knowing that I had showed my son I was right"

outings will last 10 days to two weeks.

Understanding the inventory system, in which each of the 10 territories has its steward to help regulate good stewardship and inventory management, is another important aspect of the course. This including enforcing the traplines within each territory's internal boundaries. If there are 40 beaver lodges, for example, they ensure that no more than two beavers from each lodge are trapped. Recognizing sick animals such as whether a moose, beaver or rabbit is sick will also be part of their learning process.

Tomatuk is especially proud of his weather forecasting skills which he describes as "more accurate than the internet." He recounted a tale about his son, a policeman, proposing a fishing

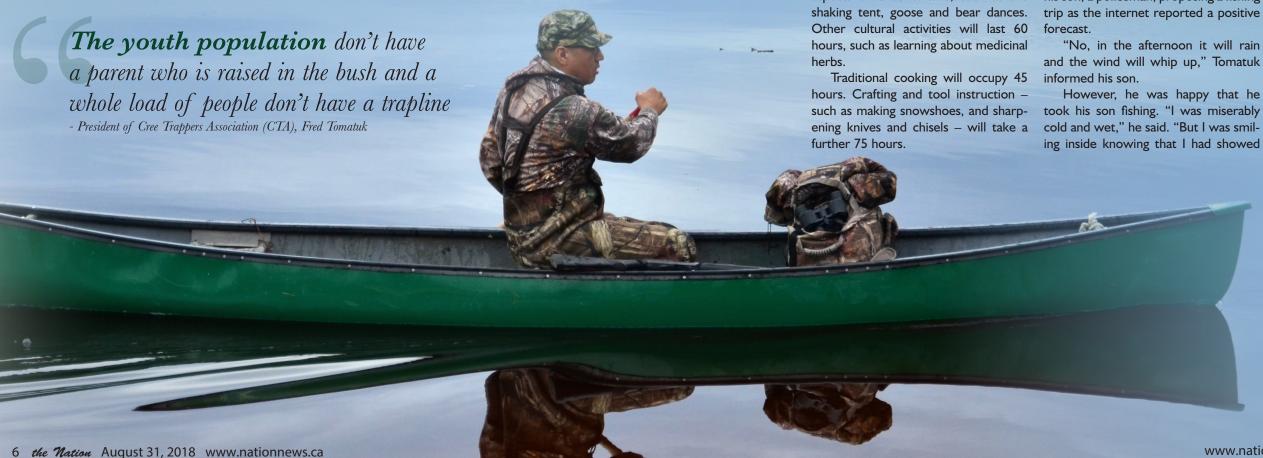
However, he was happy that he

Stewardship and survival will form my son I was right. No scientist should be able to distract us from this ability to forecast our local weather."

> Also, in reconnecting with their habitat and culture, students will learn bird calls and animal noises. "You don't shout out, 'Hey Danny, don't come over here," said Tomatuk. "Instead you make an appropriate noise. You'll also learn other things such as not to sharpen an ice chisel during the day while the beaver is sleeping; do it at night when he is too busy to notice."

> There is not yet funding for people to take the course. However, the Cree Regional Authority's Department of Economic Development is making financial provisions to ensure that the days spent taking the course will be recognized by the Cree Hunters and Trappers Insecurity Program under the James Bay and Northern Quebec

> "Next week is the final presentation to the General Assembly (of the CTA) after which we expect to have approval so that in October we'll start looking to hire teachers," Tomatuk concluded.





Department of **Justice and Correctional Services**

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Waswanipi **golf benefit** funds local sports



Golf Belvedere in Val-d'Or on a sunny Thursday in mid-August as Waswanipi held its 2018 Golf Benefit. The annual event raises critical funds needed to improve and expand minor sports programs for to the young people of Waswanipi.

While none of the day's golfers sunk a hole-in-one that would have netted them a Ford F-150 2018 Platinum, made available by Hardy Ringuette, or the \$100,000 cash prize put up by the Cree Nation of Waswanipi Natural Resources.

Judy Cooper of Waswanipi earned the top prize of the day, donated by

ver 70 golfers hit the links at the Cree Nation of Waswanipi - a trip for two to Las Vegas, where she will enjoy a six-night stay and \$1000 in spending money, and to see the NHL's newest team, the Vegas Golden Knights, in action.

Conrad Happyjack also went summer programs. home happy after hearing his name called as the winner of the second prize of the day. He and a friend will make their way to Montreal via Air Creebec, enjoy two nights at the Montreal Sheraton Hotel, and see the Montreal Canadiens take on the defending Stanley Cup champion Washington Capitals. He also pocketed \$500 in cash.

The participation of individual golfers and corporate sponsors raised more than \$47,000 that will be used to improve minor sports programs ranging from hockey and broomball, to basketball, martial arts, and various

A \$10,000 donation was received from mining and environmental services company, Miyuu Kaa Fournier, which represented the biggest donation of the day. Platinum sponsors donating \$3000 or more included Matthew Happyjack, Air Creebec, Osisko Mining, Bonterra Resources and the Waswanipi Youth Council.

Social housing project opens in Val-d'Or

first conceived, the Kijaté housing complex was inaugurated in Val-d'Or August 22. Though residents governments came together to fund had already moved in this past spring, elected officials and the head of the Vald'Or Native Friendship Centre gathered to celebrate the years of hard work that went into realizing the project.

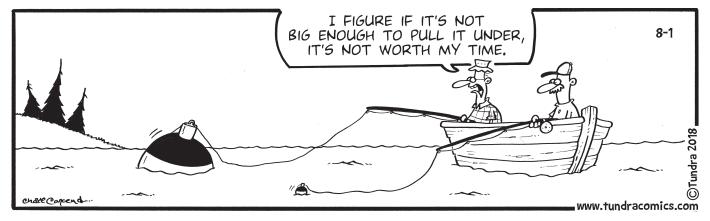
"It's not for nothing that it took 10 years," said Edith Cloutier, Director General of the Friendship Centre. "Everything we did was out of the ordinary. By leading the project as an

en years after the project was Indigenous person, we are out of the ordinary in society."

Federal, provincial and municipal part of the \$6.1 million social housing project. More than \$2 million came from Quebec and Canada while Vald'Or added \$1.1 million in the form of a 35-year tax rebate and a land donation. As well, \$140,000 came from the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones. All residents who qualify for social housing are required to pay no more than 25% of their working wage.

Correction

n the August 17 issue of the Nation (Vol. 25, No. 21), the "Oral History Prevails" story contained an error about the year that the British ship the Nonsuch arrived in Eeyou Istchee. The correct year was 1668. The Nation regrets the inaccuracy.





Progress and renewal of the Cree Nation

by Will Nicholls | Photos by Brendan Forward & Joshua Loon

he recent death of his son Nathaniel in a motocross racing accident made this year's annual general meeting a challenge for Grand Chief Abel Bosum.

But he said the community of Crees meeting to share and plan the way ahead, as they did again August 7-9 in Mistissini, is a tonic. "It is amazing the strength that you can gain when our leadership and our people come together. We talk hard and there may be difficult politics at times but no one should ever doubt that Cree people care for one another. It is very important that we don't take this for granted especially in this day and age."

At a time that the western world "is in a state of polarization, regionalization and isolation and here we are in Eeyou Istchee united in our love for each other and our love for the land," Bosum added. "We should never lose that or take it for granted."

Bosum said his wife and family are grateful for the kindness and support they received during their time of sorrow.

The first day was one of few surprises as delegates appointed recording secretaries and a resolutions committee, adopted the agenda, approved the minutes and resolutions of the Cree Nation Government Board Council and the Board of Compensation, confirmed new laws, looked at the financial statements, appointed auditors for the next year and discussed the Cree Nation Government Annual Report. In other words, regular business had to be taken care of before getting to the feast honouring Dr. Matthew Coon Come.

Mary Anne Coon Come shared her memories of his balance between politics and family life. She said that she was proud of the way her husband supported and honoured the commitments to both the children as a father and the Cree Nation as a leader.

Long-time Grand Council Executive Director Bill Namagoose said working with Coon Come was always interesting. He mentioned that during the Cree campaign against Hydro-Québec's Great Whale Project in the early 1990s, Coon Come decided to practice his speech that he would later deliver to the United Nations. He did so on a New York City street and the impromptu oration drew a crowd.

Coon Come was presented with a fishing trip at one of the Mistissini Lake camps. Coon Come said it was great to get away from everything and spend some quality time with his wife.

That same night featured an outdoor concert by Kashtin at the Mistissini track field attended by nearly the whole community. Florent Vollant and Claude Mackenzie's Native take on rock can still hold an audience spellbound.

Land Agreements

he Maamuuu Wiicheutuwin Agreement to be negotiated between the Pekuakamiulnuatch First Nation and the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee was presented. This deals with the overlap in territories between the Ilnu and the Cree on the eastern edge of Eeyou Istchee. Though the past has seen marriages and trade between the two peoples this is the first formal agreement to be considered. Protecting the land and the traditional way of life spearheaded this action. The Ilnu are dealing with more than 11,000 land leases and an aggressive forestry industry. Crees in the overlapping territory also face threats or harassment. The Ilnu will recognize Cree Aboriginal rights in the overlap area, which is a first. Also Ilnu agents in the area will protect Cree harvesting rights that have been the target of Quebec's wildlife protection officers.



AGA 2018

Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government

Housing Issues

ousing remains a hot-button issue in many quickly growing communities in Eeyou Istchee. As one speaker noted, it has long been a source of frustration.

Johnny Saganash spoke about working many years for Hydro-Québec and the Waswanipi Band Council and trying to build a home. He said because of all the obstacles he lost the opportunity to create wealth in the community.

"Listening to Johnny Saganash tell his story demonstrated that something has been broken for a very long time and is evidence that it will not be a band-aid solution or tinkering with social housing or regulations that will fix things," said Bosum. "We will need to develop revolutionary new ways at looking at housing so that as Johnny aspired more than 40 years ago a home becomes the most important investment tool and safety net for a young man, couple or family."

To that end, Bosum said that the Cree leadership has set aside \$100 million "to address the problem now we have to put this into action empower all Crees and young families."



Participation in the AGA

osum did have some concerns about the AGA. "We have to do something so that all participants get to participate fully," he told *the Nation*. "Three days in the present format I fear leaves people feeling like they have unanswered questions or worse like they weren't heard. Yes, the corporate requirements are important but we cannot miss this opportunity to influence the direction of the leadership in the coming year."

To this end he is instructing the staff to look for ways "that will allow for greater input and participation by community delegates. I think we are beginning to master the reporting, although I am sure we can do better. We have to examine how we are creating and receiving the expectations of our people but most important is the follow-up. People need to know that there participation is important and leads to something and this is where need to evaluate from year to year how we are meeting expectations."

Bosum ended by saying, "I am very proud of the staff at the Cree Nation Government. We do not set precedents in First Nations Government relations year after year for nothing. I am also very proud of our leadership, the commitment of the Cree Chiefs to our assembly is a demonstration of their commitment of to the Cree Nation as a whole. Sacrificing a whole week out of your life to be away from your home, family and community is not lost on me and I am grateful to the Chiefs and the delegates for this."

Many of the complete presentations and documents from the AGA can be found at creegovernment.org.

The festivities in Mistissini didn't end with the AGA. On August 14, Mistissini Days offered visitors a celebration of the host community that featured old photos, games, vendors and, of course, another feast.

During the day the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree who had returned to Ouje Point for a few days paddled over to the Hudson Bay Point as they used to do in the old days. The lead canoe had OJ Chief Curtis Bosum paddling calmly over in what could be called a traditional memory walk of sorts. One of the canoeists yelled out to the Mistissini Fire Department boat to stay close to them for safety reasons. On shore there were local residents and newly elected Mistissini Chief Thomas Neeposh to welcome and greet the paddlers..



Restoring mine sites

special moment for many was the signing of an agreement to clean up mining sites. Most are exploration sites where the miners would simply abandon empty fuel drums and other materials they felt were too costly to take out. Grand Chief Bosum said this was a necessary activity that would also provide jobs for the Cree for many years.

Mining industry veteran André Gaumond has worked in Nunavut to clean up a variety of old mining sites. Now he's bringing the same type of program to Eeyou Istchee. Gaumond

was clear that the cleanup dealt with exploration sites and not developed mines.

"They are small usually but they have been there for 40 or 50 years," he said.

Quebec is contributing \$11 million to the effort and Gaumond hopes to raise another million from the mining industry. This year will see the creation of an inventory of the sites and the clean up will start in the summer of 2019. It is expected that it will take at least 10 years to clean up all the sites. People who know of any sites are encouraged to contact their local CTA or band council environment department.



There has to be a way to come together and manage these programs in such away that we restore the pride and nobility that came with being trapper.

- Grand Chief, Abel Bosum

Support for Trappers

Supporting the trappers is something that Bosum feels the Cree have to address.

"We should not be supporting them with a patch work of hand-outs and subsidies. There has to be a way to come together and manage these programs in such away that we restore the pride and nobility that came with being trapper. We have the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement because of trappers, we exercise authority and jurisdiction throughout all of Eeyou Istchee because of the knowledge and expertise of our trappers," said Bosum.

Solid support is on the way. Hunters, trappers and fishermen will see an extension to the Cree Traditional Activities Enhancement

Program (CTAE). This funding program grew out of a need to deal with changes due to forestry practices and the practical concerns of the trappers.

The communities affected by forestry operations are Mistissini, Nemaska, Ouje-Bougoumou, Waskaganish and Waswanipi, who share a pot of \$3,287,772. A total of 115 traplines are eligible for funding. Eligible projects include:

- Replacing or relocating facilities (camps, docks, etc);
- Facilitating travel by trappers in the course of their activities;
- Upgrading of specific sites of interest (gathering places, etc:);

 Other measures aimed at reinforcing the exercise of hunting, fishing and trapping activities;

Grand Co

- Stream enhancement work, spawning ground enhancement and related preparation work;
- Trail network development and improvement, portages and snowmobile trails;
- Silviculture work or other wildlife habitat enhancement projects;
- Beaver and muskrat relocation
- Construction of boat landing;
- In certain cases, maintenance, upgrading, repair or snow removal of sections of forest roads not used by the industry in cases where such activities facilitate

access to a camp and where it is reasonable to undertake such project.

This program also provides equipment to trappers every three years such as snow-mobiles, ATVs, outboard motors, boats, snowplows, wood splitters, chainsaws and more.

The Income Security Program (ISP) for Cree hunters and trappers is also getting a makeover. In the past Cree who lived on the land had a hard time making ends meet and while the ISP helped out these days it just isn't enough.

"This means we need to move away from the 'welfare' point-of-view of and make sure that the Income Security Program and all remedial works program reflect the true

importance that we attribute to the Cree traditional way of life and trappers," said

The ISP has a new name – liyiyiu Intuuhuusiu Shuuyaan – and new benefits. Equality between women and men are now part of the new regime. As well, Elders can wave goodbye to the 5-year limit and qualify for a lifetime eligibility to access ISP services and benefits. In the past Cree would have to have spent one year in the bush without any ISP payments. Now Cree heading to the bush can collect payments for 120 days during the first year. There will be a limit of \$35,000 per adult and \$2,000 per child. Any monies above that amount will reduce ISP benefits dollar by dollar.

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Draft Resolutions

Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government **Annual General Assembly**

Resolution No.: 2018-XX RE: **Reintegration Of Mocreebec Eeyoud Within Cree Nation Governance Entities**

WHEREAS the MoCreebec Eevou are members of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and beneficiaries of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement;

WHEREAS the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government, as well as each of the ten communities of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee, have formally affirmed their recognition of MoCreebec Eeyoud as the eleventh community of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee;



WHEREAS the Grand Council of the Crees (Eevou Istchee) and Cree Nation Government support the development and self-determination of MoCreebec Eevoud, and in particular support the MoCreebec Eeyou in their struggle

to achieve proper recognition of their community of MoCreebec Eeyoud and of its place within the Cree Nation of Eevou Istchee: and

WHEREAS the MoCreebec Eeyou, acting through their Chief and Council, have requested that further steps be taken to assist in the political and cultural reconnection of MoCreebec Eyoud with the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee, by enabling greater participation by MoCreebec Eeyoud within the governance entities of the Cree Nation:

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby affirms their intention to support the progressive political and cultural reconnection of MoCreebec Eeyoud within the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee:

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby affirms their support for MoCreebec Eeyoud to be granted observer status on the Board of Directors of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, the Council of Commissioners of the Cree School Board, the Board of Directors of the Cree Nation Youth Council. and the Board of Directors of the Cree Trappers' Association;

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby authorizes and mandates the Board-Council and the Executive Director to take all necessary and appropriate steps as may reasonably be required to give effect to this Eeyou Assembly Resolution.

SUBJECT: Support for the Construction of a Second Exit Road West of Mistissini to Connect to the Route-du-Nord for Safety Reasons

WHEREAS the Cree Nation of Mistissini is requesting for support to construct a second exit road west of Mistissini connecting to the Route-du-Nord

WHEREAS in 2005/2006 the community of Mistissini threatened by two forest fires, one from the East and one from the West: WHEREAS the second exit road is necessary for the safety of the residents of Mistissini:

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby support the development and construction of a second exit road west of Mistissini to connect to the routedu-Nord for safety reasons.

Resolution 2018-09: Board of Compensation Chairperson Term Extension

WHEREAS the term for the Chairperson of the Board of Compensation is currently at two (2) years;

WHEREAS the term of the Board of Compensation members is at four (4) years;

WHEREAS the term for the Chairperson of the Board of Compensation should be consistent with the terms of the elected members:

WHEREAS it is deemed appropriate that the term of the Chairperson should four (4) years;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly approve the recommendation and mandate the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government to examine and develop the most efficient manner for adjusting the term for the Chairperson of the Board of Compensation from two (2) years to four (4) years and direct the do all things necessary to give effect to the foregoing.



Resolution - Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree **Nation Government Council/ Board**

WHEREAS as early as 1974 representatives of the Cree people identified income security as a principal element of any treaty with Canada and Quebec:

WHEREAS at the time of the negotiation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement - ("JBNQA") in 1974-1975 there was serious concern among the Cree people that:

• their territory was being increasingly occupied by non-Crees and industrial development could result in displacement of Cree families within their traditional territory;

- the economics of the fur trade was not sufficient to provide economic security to maintain a way of life based on hunting. fishing and trapping and was also making it increasingly difficult for Cree families to travel to their hunting territories;
- sedentary pressures were risking the loss of Cree cultural understanding and spirituality particularly among the young;
- there was a need to reinforce the family as the centre of Cree nationhood:

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WHEREAS Section 30 of the JBNQA was designed to counter these trends and provide security for individual and collective Cree rights;

WHEREAS Section 30 of the JBNQA provides for the establishment of a program to provide an income guarantee and benefits and other incentives for Cree people who wish to pursue harvesting activities as a way of life;

WHEREAS Section 30 of the JBNQA also provides that the program shall guarantee a measure of economic security consistent with conditions prevailing from time to time;

WHERAS the program was revised in 1988 (Complementary Agreement no 8) and in 2002 (Complementary Agreement no 15) to keep it updat-

WHEREAS the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board (the "Board") made recommendations to the Cree Nation Government and Quebec in 2012 to proceed to a new revision;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government recognized the necessity for a revision, approved the recommendations of the Board and mandated its representatives to enter into discussion with Quebec representatives;

WHEREAS discussions involving representatives from the Cree Nation Government, the Quebec Government and the Board were carried out from December 2013 to May 2018;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government representatives in the discussions support the changes proposed, believe the modifications represent appropriate evolution of the Program and recommend that Section 30 of the JBNQA be revised accordingly;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government agrees that the proposed changes meet the original objectives of the program, offer updated economic security to Cree hunters and answer some of the main concerns expressed by the Cree trappers over the years;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government approves the recommendations made and wishes to enter into an agreement to amend Section 30 of the JBNQA accordingly;

WHEREAS it is imperative that the modifications be in place for the program year 2019-20120, starting July 1, 2019;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby approve and recommend to the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government the proposed text of a Complementary Agreement to modify the JBNQA as appears in Annex 1 to the present, which includes the new version of Section 30 of the JBNQA replacing present Section 30;

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby mandate the Grand Chief/ Chairman to communicate the recommendation for approval of the Cree Nation Government to the responsible Quebec Minister(s) and to request the signing of a Complementary Agreement to that effect as soon as possible;

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby request that the changes be effec-

tive for the program-year 2019-2020 starting July 1, 2019.

Subject: Request For a Transportation Subsidy From the Whapmagoostui First Nation

WHEREAS the Whapmagoostui First Nation is situated within the 55th parallel and the cost of living is exorbitantly high and is only accessible by airplane or barge;

WHEREAS all perishable goods and non-perishable goods are transported by airplane on a weekly basis;

WHEREAS all major purchases made by the WFN community members such as construction material. trucks and other vehicles are transported by barge from Wemindji to Whapmagoostui;

WHEREAS the average transportation costs for a vehicle is currently 2,500.00 per person;

WHEREAS the Whapmagoostui First Nation members request that the Cree Nation Government consider granting a transportation subsidy to offset the high cost of living in Whapmagoostui;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eevou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby



agree to the consideration of a granting of a transportation subsidy to the Whapmagoostui First Nation members subject to a study on the actual transportation costs which assist in determining the subsidy amount;

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees (Eevou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly further mandate the Executive Director to do all things to give effect to the foregoing.



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A arah Pash will be sworn in as the new Cree School Board Chairperson this fall in Chisasibi after receiving more votes than her two opponents combined in the July 25 election. She's still getting over the shock from the overwhelming support she received.

"I am just really grateful," Pash told the Nation. "I'm really honoured by the amount of support shown to me during my campaign and I think it shows how ready we are as a nation to come together and support our education system. We almost tripled the amount of voters with this election compared to the last."

Pash completed a Doctorate in Education with a specialization in First Nations Student Success in 2014, and has previously worked for the Cree School Board and the James Bay Eeyou School. With her experience as a student and educator, she's coming into a new role with an understanding of what it is like to be

on both sides of the system.

"I think that there are certain things that are valued by our population when it comes to nation-building, language and culture. Focussing on those kinds of goals is what's going to meet our needs," she said.

Pash said she comes to the table

with an understanding of the school's work, the issues the schools are facing and a vision for the future.

"I have always believed in Nelson Mandela's words: 'Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.' But from a Cree perspective we look at education more as a tool we will use to build our nation into the future," she emphasized.

To achieve that she would like to see other powerful actors, such as the Cree Health Board and the Cree Nation Government, work more closely with the Cree School Board.

"At this point we're all at a place where we recognize that collaborative partnerships are going to move all of our entities forward and be conducive to increasing the success of everything that we are working on," noted Pash. "One of the things that I am really excited about in becoming Chair is developing and building those relationships and collaborative efforts."

Prior to her PhD, Pash did her Master's degree in Community Engagement.

"It's also about reengaging the community, we need to start reengaging parents and I was happy to see that was already part of the Cree land-based education and language

to our land and it is so much a part of our identity," she said. "We need to bring land-based education in if we are going to be building identity with our students. That's very important to me because building identity creates strength from culture and language. That way our students will have what they need to persist through the education system."

Provisions in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement make it possible to develop this programming while still keeping within Ministry of Education parameters.

But Pash insists that the focus on

is the right of the Cree.

More important than anything, however, is that the Cree School Board continues to improve standards so that the CSB provides a "topnotch education" for Cree students.

As of early August, Pash had already started

her transition into her new position, meeting with new colleagues, listening to their concerns and working to get an understanding of what was going on within the CSB.

"I have already had some good discussions with the Director General. Abraham Jolly, and for the most part we are on the same page. I am looking forward to a collaborative and supportive partnership with him because I feel like we have different strengths going into this venture and I can't see why we couldn't make something exceptional happen over the course of this mandate."

"We need to bring landbased education in if we are going to be building identity with our students"

> School Board's long-term strategic plan," she said.

> Another direction that Pash believes the communities and the CSB are trying to push forward is providing Cree cultural education and building a strong relationship with the land. While working on her PhD, Pash said that this was something that she looked at in terms of student successes in other nations and saw very positive results. It's something she's intent on continuing to develop in Eeyou Istchee.

"We know that because we are a people of the land, we are connected



by Dan Isaac | Photo provided by the CSB

CRADUATES

Congratulations to the 2017-18 Cree School Board grads

Ithough I'm sure to most it feels like the school year just ended, another is upon us as the summer draws to a close. Soon, our future leaders, those who'll form the foundation of our society, will be heading back to elementary school or high school or attending their first day of Kindergarten, and some will be embarking on a new journey entirely.

It's no small feat to graduate. It's also an important mile marker on the road to adulthood or a new career, which is why we here at the Nation would like to celebrate your accomplishment.

Here is a list of Eeyou Istchee's high school and Work-Oriented Training Programs (WTOP) graduates for 2017-18. And if you're one who'll be doing exams in November, we're rooting for you and then celebrating with you as soon as you pass.

With our deepest gratitude and admiration, we congratulate this year's graduating class! We're looking forward to seeing and reporting on your future accomplishments.

Chisasibi: Emily Ann Bearskin, Jenna Bearskin, Reannon Bobbish, Anna-Paige Chakapash, Tatianna Kanatewat, Angel Kitty, Crystal Lafond, Jarvis Matches, Jessie-Lynn Matches, April Joy Matthew, Franklin Moar, Jamie Napash, Lyle Otter, Amanda Petawabano, Eric Rednose, Wabinougow Sealhunter, April Sam, Ryanne Sam, Delannah Scipio, Betsy Snowboy, Tanesha Snowboy, Lily-Jane Stewart, Joni Wadden, and Celine Iserhoff-Salt.

WOTP: Charity Bearskin - Grocery Clerk; Donovan Bellefleur-Visitor - Copy Print Centre Clerk; Pearl Scipio - Cook's Helper; Raina Snowboy - Hotel Housekeeping

Eastmain: Benjamin Cheezo, Darla Cheezo, Hilary Cheezo, Amy Gilpin, Jocelynn Gilpin, Jasmine House-Moses, Sheldon Kawapit, Edith Mayappo, Julianne Mark, Edrin Shanush-Mayappo, Roberta Shanush-Gilpin, Mercedes Tomatuk, Celine Weapenicappo, Destiny Weapenicappo, and Garrett Whiskeychan.

WOTP: Billy Gilpin - Assistant Childhood Educator; Jerome Mayappo - Assistant Childhood Educator; Grace-Lynn Weapenicappo - Assistant Childhood Educator.

Mistissini: Felicity Coon-Come-Brien, Reilly Coon, Gavin Coon, Kristy-Lee Diamond, Sara Gunner, Athena Macleod, Nicholas Macleod, Gwyneth Petawabano, Trey Turner, Katie Wapachee, and Kimberly Wapachee-McDougall.

Nemaska: Rachel Cheezo, Patricia Jolly, Shania Jolly, and Angelina Wapachee-Rabbitskin.

Ouje-bougoumou: Glenda-Grace Alook-Bosum, and Quinn Isik-Blacksmith.

Waskaganish: Ashlynn Blackned, Desmond Blacksmith, Myobin Chiskamish, Tricia Gilpin, Jerrell Hester, Melanie Hester, Leon Polson, Antonio Stephen, James Stephen, Tianna Stevens, and Sonya Trapper. Waswanipi: Elliot Blacksmith-Ottereyes, Christian Cooper, Serena Gull, Warren Gull-Saganash, Tyra Moses, Maria Nottaway, Ely Ottereyes, Lianne Ottereyes, Justyna Ottereyes-Gull, Anne-Marie Otter-Lord, Cherish Polson, Serenity Polson, Dwaylon Rupert, Gordon Saganash, Tyra Saganash, and Emilio Shecapio

WOTP: Khayden Otter-Rupert - Crossing Guard; Drew Happyjack-Visitor - Crossing Guard; Valerie-Rose Dixon - Recreation Assistant; Marcus Gull - Public Building Cleaner.

Wemindji: Faith Atsynia, Mariah Atsynia, Cheryl Danyluk, Madison Hindmarsh, Whitney Miniquaken, Jake Robertson, Taryn Shashaweskum, and Ryanna Visitor.

Whapmagoostui: Charmaine Alisappi, Marty Junior Esperon-Visitor, and Geo

WOTP: Melvin-Sam Masty - Store Clerk.

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the Nation was well represented at Osheaga 2018

n its 13th iteration, the Osheaga Music and Arts Festival, the crown jewel of Canadian music festivals, invaded Parc Jean-Drapeau's Île Notre-Dame August 3-5 for a sold-out musical odyssey while construction continues on new amphitheatre at the old site on Île Sainte-Hélène.

About 45,000 people attended each day of Osheaga. With many from out of town, the fans help transform the entire city when the yearly spectacle trots into town. It's a bit of a circus. The population grows by thousands, and likely gets younger by decades. It's bro-ey-er, hence the affectionate nickname: Brosheaga.

It's a time when adults get to act like kids, and come together with other music lovers to make memories. And there was plenty to choose from.

From local talent to up-and-comers from the UK to international music icons, the festival had a little something for everyone. Genre-wise too, it was a buffet of musical delights.

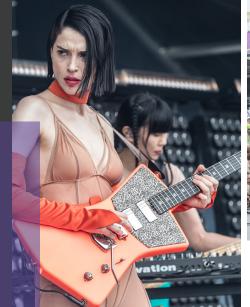
But the dominant theme of this year's Osheaga (if there was one) was rap – or hip-hop, as the kids are calling it. Everyday saw a major hip-hop act headline one of the main stages.

Of course it's not just about the music. Like the first day of school, fashion always takes centre stage at Osheaga. It's a time when everyone in attendance dresses up or down to impress, while the musicians shine a light on upcoming and timeless fashion trends.

It was a scorcher this year, leading to much dressing down, but the festival did its part to keep people cool and hydrated. Fire hoses drenched fans at several stages.

A fountain between the main stages was the ideal landmark for friends to find friends they had lost in the crowd, or bump into ones they hadn't seen in years.

Speaking of bumping into people, the Nation was well-represented as production coordinator Dan Isaac, designer Matt Dessner, journalist Josh Grant, and editor Lyle Stewart all made a pilgrimage to Parc Jean-Drapeau for at least one day of the festival.

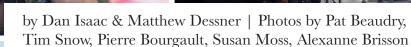
























sheaga started strong with performances by indie-electronic duos Sylvain Esso and Chromeo and continued with the eclectic, guitar-driven melodies of St. Vincent and the sombre rock act, Cigarettes After Sex.

Following the early acts, front woman of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Sandra O, owned the main stage belting out the band's classic songs such as "Zero" and "Maps". Then the Australian electronic act Odesza wowed the crowd with pyrotechnics on the adjacent stage.

While most of the bros stayed at the main stage to see Travis Scott who headlined the first day of performances, some more enlightened listeners headed over to a smaller stage. Here, James Blake's down-tempo electronic style hypnotized the audience – and also quite possibly the swarm of flies that circled his head throughout the entire performance.













he second day began with local artists gracing the smaller stages. Montreal bands John Jacob Magistery and Ponctuation both stunned with energetic performances — and despite the many hung-over souls in the audience, people showed up in droves to support the home-grown talent.

As the day continued, a blast from the past hit the stage with Blondie's 73-year-old singer Debbie Harry sporting a cape that read, "Stop Fucking The Planet." The attitude matched as she rocked a vibrant audience of all ages with classics like "One Way or Another" and "Call Me". The dancing continued with solid performances by the soulful folk act Bahamas and the synth-led pop anthems of Future Islands.

As the sun set, Anderson .Paak and The Free Nationals took the crowd by storm with their whip-smart blend of rock and R&B, and the dancing, moshing and crowd-surfing continued as Arctic Monkeys began their closing show. The British rockers played all their hit songs and a very fatigued audience went home happy.



DAY3

hile up-and-comers liked The Neighbourhood and Børns graced the outer stages in the early afternoon, closing night at Osheaga saw arguably the most star power hit the main stages.

First to hit a main stage on closing night was Post Malone, whose real name is Austin Richard Post. A true showman and amateur comedian, Post had the crowd in the palm of his hand for his entire set. Playing hits from his new album Beerbongs & Bentleys, the entire open-air venue sang along and swayed as the sun began to set.

Following that memorable set, melancholy indie-rock band The National blew the crowd away. Playing all their hits, the atmosphere was electric as the band set the stage for the dramatic closing act.

Florence + the Machine closed out the festival with a most memorable performance. The power of singer Florence Welsh's voice alone was enough to make the hairs on your neck stand up.

But it was Welsh's interaction with the crowd that elevated the show to that special place. Stomping around the stage bare-footed, she belted out the angelic pop-rock ballads the band has become known for, and kept insisting that fans hug the person next to them. She even jumped into the crowd at one point to do the same – the perfect conclusion to an epic weekend of music.











International Champs

Justin MacLeod and Noah Neeposh take home hockey gold in Italy

by Joshua Grant Photos by W. MacLeod & M. Rickard

ike most 11-year-olds, Justin MacLeod of Mistissini and Waswanipi's Noah Neeposh love to play hockey and to play video games - but it's safe to say that hockey takes precedence.

After successful tryouts last December, MacLeod and Neeposh were invited to participate in the annual European Summer Series, competing in Bolzano, Italy, this past July 25-28 against players in their age group from all over the world. The trip was both boys' first taste of international elite AAA competition and the two represented Canada and the Cree Nation as part of team ProHockey, a contingent put together by Toronto's Pro Hockey Development Group.





ProHockey went 3-1 in round-robin play, their only loss coming at the hands of the Czech Knights, before going on a tear in the elimination round. First, they downed Latvia SHD 4-3 in the guarterfinals, then they shut out and eliminated their Canadian counterparts Draftday Canada 4-0 in the semis.

The gold medal match pitted ProHockey against the Czechs once again, and this time goaltending was the difference. After regular time concluded in a goalless draw, MacLeod and Neeposh's team managed to kill off a penalty in overtime before winning the game and the tournament 1-0 in a shootout.

"It was so intense!" exclaimed MacLeod's mother Melissa, who was on hand for the entire competition. "The fans on the Czech side, the chanting [in the finall, we really had to work hard to drown them out. We were able to kill off the penalty and it went into shootout.

The first player to shoot for our side was able to score and then our goalie shut them out!"

Both boys still talk about it every day, she added.

"The friends they made over the course of the 10 days and how those kids were able to work together to win that championship. Now when they play Xbox they're playing Fortnite [an online video game] with their teammates. It's amazing how a video game allows them to maintain a connection with those friends who they made outside of the Cree Nation."

As a defensive defenseman, MacLeod was recognized by on-ice commentators for his skating ability and consistency as a stay-at-home defenseman throughout the tournament. He was described as a shut-down player who was heavily relied upon to neutralize opposing offensive threats.

Neeposh played forward and made an impact with his speed, backchecking and nose for the net. During their games and in the medal ceremony announcers touted him as a "two-way force".

The two Eeyouch spoke about their individual experiences in Italy in separate interviews with the Nation.

"It was hard work," said MacLeod. "You put a lot of effort into it and you have to adjust to the fast pace. My favourite part of the tournament was that we won the gold medal. I was really happy when we won, happy to be representing the Cree Nation and Canada."

Asked to describe a few of his teammates, some of whom he has kept in touch with online, MacLeod opened up a little bit more.



"There's number 36, Cooper Dennis, he's a good player – but he's American. He likes to take [the puck] up, make some plays and always go for the W," said MacLeod.

"One guy is from Winnipeg, his name's Wade, he's a good player, good

I was really happy when we won, happy to be representing the Cree Nation and Canada."

- Justin MacLeod

at dangling. Then there's number 86 from Toronto, Evan. His dad was the head coach and he's actually a pretty good player, he's like Cooper. There's also a defense named Evan Williams. He's a big player from Florida and he skates really fast."

Neeposh's reflections on his visit to Italy ranged from fine cuisine to sightseeing as well as a few tense moments on the ice.

"The food tasted different and it was so beautiful," he recalled. "When I was on the plane I could see the cities we visited and one day we went up one of the big mountains and I could see [the arena] where we played. It felt great! I scored two goals in one of the games, I was in front of the net that time, hit top corner and low post."

Neeposh said he felt nervous in his first game and didn't skate as he normally would. "But after I got going I wasn't scared anymore," he added. "I became more comfortable and all the players were really good. It's very different in AAA – they're faster and very smart. But it was our goalie who kept us going. In the semi-final and the finals, they didn't score any goals on him."

So what's next for these two promising prospects from Eeyou Istchee? Speaking to their fathers, the plan is to keep training, attending development camps and competing at a high level.

"In May, [Justin] tried out for the Nickel City Sons, a PeeWee AAA team in Sudbury, Ontario," said Justin's father, Anthony MacLeod. "He's made that team and he's going to be playing in the Sudbury region against teams out of North Bay, another team out of

Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins. He's already got about five tournaments

David Neeposh noted that Noah played in Chibougamau for the last two

> The food tasted different and it was **so** beautiful - 7ustin MacLeod

years but that he hopes to go out to Ottawa or Sudbury next year.

"Right now, we're focusing on this season," said Neeposh. "He's been training all summer, even before the tournament [in Italy], and he's going to stay home and try out for the Cree Nation Bears. We'll see what happens next season."

Both Anthony MacLeod and David Neeposh were extremely proud of their sons' accomplishments and both mentioned that there have been talks about ProHockey returning to Europe next summer to defend their title at the Summer Series, to be held either in Finland or Sweden. For now, it's business as usual for both boys - training regularly and squeezing in some time for Fortnite when they can.

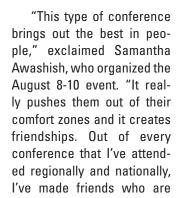


From upstarts to start-ups

Mistissini's Young Entrepreneur Symposium prepares the next Cree leaders

by Patrick Quinn | Photos provided by Samantha Awashish

istissini was buzzing in early August when the Young Entrepreneur Symposium (YES) poured out of the Youth Centre and into the community with a combination of interactive challenges and inspiring guest speakers. About 60 youth between the ages of 13 and 35 participated in the three-day event.



still friends today. I wanted

to promote the same kind of

Youth Chief, Awashish is

responsible for helping to

organize the community's

In her role as Mistissini

thing in Mistissini."

youth, encouraging them to become positive citizens. This was the second annual YES she has conducted with the support of the community's Economic Development department, holding it in the summer this year so more students could participate.

"I thought events like this would definitely create that

"There are many funding opportunities

and lots of help, free consultants and things like

that, to help young people start up a business"

spark within them to help

them realize their potential

and to help them realize there

is a lot of opportunity in our

Cree Nation. I realized there

are many funding opportuni-

ties and lots of help, like free



consultants, to help young people start up a business."

Awashish says the Cree Nation Youth Council and the Mistissini Economic Development are two potential funding sources for aspiring entrepreneurs. She recalls one participant from last year's conference who obtained funding for his pilot

project, enabling him to build

a shed to develop a wood-

To help spark that entre-

preneurial spirit at this year's

YES, participants were divid-

ed into teams and given var-

working business.

Each group chose a team name and logo, created a business plan and a commercial, and researched how to market and budget a start-up enterprise. Another challenge involved creating a social awareness campaign to destigmatize mental-health issues.

A sales competition requiring each team to sell a painting by a local artist got the young people out into the community, documenting their excursions with the hashtag #MistYES2018 and finding generous customers such as the fire department and Chief Thomas Neeposh. Awashish was pleasantly surprised at the extent that community leaders got involved in supporting some of the challenges, but perhaps that's simply a reminder of the importance of intergenerational teachings in Cree culture.

"Youth have that effect,"

develop their business skills.

ious challenges that would

Awashish said. "Once they

get motivated in doing something, they tend to create a ripple effect and I find that's exactly what happened in the community."

The lineup of speakers at the event was likely a motivating factor. Besides the dozens of panelists were keynote speakers Mandy Gull, Pakesso Mukash and Kendal Netmaker. Gull presented on the first day, speaking of her journey into entrepreneurship before getting into politics and becoming Deputy Grand Chief of the Cree Nation.

Mukash. known for his role in popular band CerAmony and most recently KXO, talked about the entrepreneurial aspect of the entertainment industry and the importance of youth voices in shaping our world. Netmaker has become an in-demand motivational speaker for his uplifting story about rising from poverty in Saskatchewan to become a young, award-winning business leader, and made a very engaging presentation for the youth.

The Nation's own editorin-chief Will Nicholls dropped by the event on the last day,



explaining details about the publication's marketing strategy and joining that afternoon's panel discussion. All of the speakers made a big impact on the participants, who asked many questions to learn about different paths to entrepreneur success and what types of businesses are needed today.

YES

One of the primary goals of the conference was to encourage participants to overcome shyness by stepping outside of their comfort zones. A series of presentations and icebreakers helped accomplish this, public speaking tasks that were difficult for many but ultimately tremendously beneficial.

The personal growth experienced by participants is evident in their Facebook event convinced her to persevere in her goal of opening a business. "I wanted to give up on it but after this symposium I'm gonna keep on working on it," she stated.

"You know how youth talk about how they're bored or can't find jobs," said Awashish. "Entrepreneurship is another way to serve your community in whatever way you find that you can contribute to our Cree Nation."

Her pride in the transformations brought about by the conference is evident. She knows she would probably be starting a business if she wasn't Youth Chief, suggesting that there is much opportunity for becoming the first

Cree to own many types of

Awashish is full of gratitude for her supporting team and all the speakers who contributed their expertise to make the event a success. She especially wants to recognize all the youth who participated, even if they didn't win one of the top prizes, encouraging them to do their best in whatever they choose to pursue.

"The main point of the conference was to inspire them to go on to contribute to the economic development of the community," she said. "It helped them realize all their potential and the things that are available to them to start a business. They got it.'



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> Sarah Pashagumskum, Chairperson-elect Abraham Jolly, Director General







Follow the money

Controversies heat up Chisasibi AGA

by Patrick Quinn

hisasibi's recent Annual General Assembly featured a particularly heated debate, including allegations of financial misconduct and an overall lack of transparency. A conduct committee found one council member guilty of violating the community's code of ethics, resulting in his resignation.

After three months of investigation, the conduct committee determined that councillor Jeffrey Kitty was in a conflict of interest by accepting a project management contract that was not disclosed to council. While there were apparently no financial or other major damages to the organization, there was a clear violation of the code of ethics and it was recommended that he make a formal apology.

"They made it sound like a big controversy but at the end of the day there was no fraud, it didn't warrant a major sanction," Chief Davey Bobbish told the Nation. He said that Kitty is a civil technician by trade and had previously worked with the business in question.

"The recommendation was to make an apology. I guess some people didn't accept that, they wanted further [action], but before we could enforce that he decided to resign and he's going back to school this fall."

The Nation is currently unable to confirm the actual details about the AGA because the minutes are unavailable.

Bobbish also downplayed another controversy brought to the meeting's attention by a council member, who alleged that \$350,000 was missing from a commitment made a few years ago to bring a respite care centre to the community. Bobbish disputes the accusation, stating that the money is still there and the commitment stands.

Discussions with Cree Health Board (CHB) to establish a respite home in Chisasibi remain ongoing and Bobbish said he just had a meeting with them this week to consider alternate sources of funding. He maintains that the misunderstanding is because funds previously committed from the Board of Compensation's community fund were never actually allocated or even officially requested.



"We did a member's resolution saying this is where we're going to fulfill our commitment," confirmed Bobbish. "But the thing is that resolution is still on our treasurer's desk - that money was never received. Even if we find it from another source, it's going to be fulfilled no matter what. The commitment is still there and will always be until we see the building up and running."

He explained that

Chisasibi and the CHB are considering funding the project through money that would be saved by not having to send individuals requiring care down south. Instead of compensating individuals for care typically provided in Montreal, the CHB would fund their care in Chisasibi and the portion currently allocated for transportation would cover the new centre's operation and maintenance.

"When the day comes when the money needs to be dispersed, we will disperse

it," said Bobbish. "So there are no missing funds. People quess don't understand how funding works. When you commit, that doesn't necessarily mean you have the funding available but you have to find a way to fulfill that commitment."

He told the Nation that current priorities for the community include completing a major hospital, establishing new schools and private housing, and paving Chisasibi's roads. As the community grows, they are also looking to expand the airstrip to accommodate larger aircrafts.

Bobbish, who has been Chief for six years and on council for the last 20 years, agreed that the meeting of about 200 community members was heated but he said he's seen worse.

"It's a normal thing that people have questions," he said. "I don't take it personally - I've got nothing to hide. There's nothing wrong with a heated debate sometimes."

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Our children's **dreams**

by Errol Mianscum



father is a great man with a history of stories that should be in a book. He used to tell us of how he had to walk miles to his school in four feet of snow, how he used to beg his teachers for homework, how he cried when there was no school because of holidays. Of course, some of his stories seemed a little exaggerated and might not be stories that would be in his book. Nevertheless, they were intended to excite us when we were kids. I now enjoy hearing those stories when he's telling them to our kids, his grandchildren.

Today, we see the anxious feeling our children get for that first day of school. In grade school it's the excitement of returning to the classroom and doing all those fun things teachers did with the students that made school "fun"

This year, I have a child entering high school. He is excited to be attending high school, that big step! I think, as a parent, I was more nervous than he was, because I knew what kind of social challenges high school brought. These days, as before, you are not only preparing to continue your education, now you are realizing that sense of belong-

ing. You will now have to try to fit into a specific "social circle". In other words, to belong somewhere. Be it, Sports or sports. Typically, these days there really isn't anywhere else, which is sad.

When I went to school in the south, I had so many opportunities to join reading clubs, drama clubs, science clubs and there were even auto mechanics, music, carpentry and electrical classes. I find it sad that these days such programs are still not availlove to see our children excel in areas other than sports. There's a new program that is taking a positive direction in the arts – the Mikw Chiyâm program works with our artistic youth, a positive step for sure.

Question is, why do our children lose interest in these "different" directions? Simple. We, as parents, sometimes don't put in enough time to encourage our children. We find ourselves too preoccupied with our social media, scrolling through everyone else's updates that we forget to focus on our children's interests. Guilty as charged right here. Why do we find it more interesting to scroll on social media posts when our children are children.

I was listening to an Elder speak of our youth and how empty their lives are today. Best described, he says that when we raise our children everything seems smooth most times. However, when they reach their teen years their road starts weaving and they make many wrong choices. Smoking, stealing, alcohol and drugs.

Why do they go down this path? able for our children. I, for one, would The Elder observed that when they look ahead to their future, they see nothing. And when they look to their past (history), all they see is sadness and violence. I believe he meant that. as a people, our history was taken away from us and we were taught a different history that took us down a whole new

> When we eventually rewrite the history books that are used in our schools, we will regain that lost identity. The history taught to our children will be one that shows the true beauty of our people and land. This will instill pride and a clearer vision of a future that is full of new dreams and possibilities. I see a good future for our









ea and Bannock **Everlasting** bond by Maïtée Labrecque-Saganash



used to spend all my summers in the bush, on the shores of Assinica Lake. My family owned Broadback Fishing Camp back then, so when the school year was over we would make our way to Chibougamau, take a hydroplane and join my mom, my aunt and my grandfather. We had to be creative and find ways to stay busy. We would work, swim and fish. I remember my mom waking us up at night to watch the northern lights on the dock. I miss this place every day.

During my time there, I observed animals a lot and learned how to interact with them. I would sit on the dock for hours fishing perch with the tip of a broken fishing rod and occasionally got scared by the pikes hiding under the dock that would try to catch my bait. I loved calling the loons. Sometimes, they would get really close to me, as if they were visiting. One of them, always alone, would come close to the boat. To this day I like to think it was nuumshuum William.

My summers in the bush helped shape my understanding of the strong bond we share with animals. One time, my brother, my dad and myself were the only ones at the camp. We went out on the lake fishing, as usual. At some point, three loons started flying in circle over our heads, literally screaming. They flew back and forth and didn't stop until we started heading back to the camp. A thunderstorm was coming and as soon as we got to the dock, it started pouring. I remember us running to the kitchen as the sky was going black.

My summers in the bush helped me shape my understanding of the strong bond we share with animals

I was still very young at that time, but I understood how powerful nature can be. The storm was so violent; a lightning bolt struck the antenna and the satellite telephone blew up in bright colours next to us. We sat together quietly in the middle of the kitchen, processing everything that happened. That day, three loons saved my brother, my father and me, and stayed with us instead of seeking shelter quickly. I will never forget the eerie sound they made, a sound I never heard from them again.

I had many intense encounters with animals in my life, some too sacred to share. An Elder once told me his father never said how he hunted animals because it's such a personal bond you share with them that you have to respect it and honour it.

I was taught to never brag about killing animals as they surrender their lives for you to live. Working at Aanischauukamikw all winter also gave me the opportunity to learn beautiful stories and teachings from some of my coworkers. I found out about the caribou hunting coats and how fancy our ancestors would dress on hunting trips. Intricate designs were painted on our hunting coats to be visible to the animals - the more visible you were, the bigger the animal you would get. It was a great demonstration of respect.

Even if things have changed quite a bit since the caribou coats, some Elders still ask their grandchildren to wear something new on their first hunt. You have to dress nicely to meet the land.

I'm currently living in Mistissini with my aunt, uncle and grandmother. Every morning when I walk to work, I can hear the loons calling on the lake. Smalls details like that put a smile on my face and make me feel safe. They're small details, but great reminders of bigger teachings we can't forget, teachings that make us Cree after all.



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